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Deniz Akdeniz

Deniz Akdeniz (born 16 May 1990) is an Australian actor. He starred in the Australian remake of *As the Bell Rings*, from 2007 to 2009. In 2010, Akdeniz gained wider recognition for his leading role in Stuart Beattie's feature film adaptation of the novel *Tomorrow, When the War Began*. He then starred in the fantasy horror *I, Frankenstein* and drama film *The Water Diviner* (both 2014), before portraying Aladdin in the ABC fantasy series *Once Upon a Time* (2016–2017).

Deniz Akdeniz	
Born	16 May 1990 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Education	TAFTA NIDA St Martins Youth Theatre Melbourne Acting Studio
Occupation	Actor
Years active	2005–present

Akdeniz has since appeared in various film and television projects, including the television series *The Flight Attendant* (2020–2022) and *High Potential* (2024–present), and the 2023 independent films *You Hurt My Feelings* and *Dumb Money*.

Early life

Akdeniz is of Turkish descent. His parents hail from Izmir, Turkey[1] and when the family emigrated to Australia, they enrolled his older brother in drama classes to help him integrate socially. Akdeniz followed his brother's lead[2] and began performing at the age of eight. He developed his performance skills at The Australian Film and Television Academy (TAFTA), NIDA, St Martins Youth Theatre, and with Bruce Alexander at Melbourne Acting Studio. He made his professional debut in a 2007 production of *Angels with Dirty Faces*.[3] He was discovered while he was with the Victorian Youth Theatre.[4]

Prior to acting, Akdeniz trained and competed professionally in mixed martial arts.[5] He is a Victorian jiujitsu champion.

Career

Akdeniz's first role was in the Australian film *Puppy* in 2005. He followed this with a role as Raff on the Disney television series *As the Bell Rings* from 2007 to 2009.

He was nominated for Best Actor at the 2010 Inside Film Awards for his role as Homer in the film *Tomorrow, When the War Began*.

In 2014 Akdeniz appeared in *I, Frankenstein*, and *The Water Diviner*.

He played a recurring role as Aladdin in season six of the ABC television series *Once Upon a Time* from 2016 to 2017, and as Robb Wellens on season three of *Siren* in 2020.

Beginning in 2022 Akdeniz played Max in seasons 1 and 2 of the HBO Max comedic thriller *The Flight Attendant*.

He appeared in 2022 Australian–American co-production *Interceptor*, and in 2023 films *You Hurt My Feelings* and *Dumb Money*.

He currently plays Lev 'Oz' Ozdil on television series *High Potential*.

Personal life

Akdeniz married his long term partner, American actress Riley Dandy, in 2024. [6]

He is now based in Los Angeles.

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2005	*Puppy*	Omar	Feature film
2010	*Tomorrow, When the War Began*	Homer Yannos	
2013	*April Rain*	Tariq	
2014	*I, Frankenstein*	Barachel	
	The Water Diviner	Imam	
2020	*Sightless*	Nurse Omar	
	The High Note	Spencer Cliff	
2023	*You Hurt My Feelings*	Vince	
	Dumb Money	Briggsy	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2007–2009	*As the Bell Rings*	Raff	Main cast, 27 episodes
2007	*Pass the Plate*	Himself	Short series, episode: "Banana"
2008	*Disney Channel Games*	Himself (Team Inferno)	Short series, 5 episodes
2013	*Kristin's Christmas Past*	Maverick	TV movie
2014	*Graceland*	Wayne 'Bates' Zelanski	3 episodes
2015	*Perception*	Jesse Branson	Episode: "Romeo"
2015	*Jessie*	Marco	Episode: "Rossed at Sea, Part 2"
2016	*Code Black*	Manny Petrosian	Episode: "The Fifth Stage"
2016–2017	*Once Upon a Time*	Aladdin	Recurring role, 7 episodes
2017	*Jane the Virgin*	Alex	
2017	*Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*	Virgil	Episode: "Orientation: Part 1"
2019	*S.W.A.T.*	Micah	Episode: "Micah"
2019	*For All Mankind*	Paul Santoro	Episode: "Red Moon"
2020	*Siren*	Robb Wellens	Recurring role
2020–2022	*The Flight Attendant*	Max Park	Recurring role (season 1) Main role (season 2)
2022	*The Cleaning Lady*	Tarik Bersamian	2 episodes
2022–2023	*The Rookie: Feds*	Mark Atlas	5 episodes
2024–current	*Ghosts*	Chris	4 episodes: "The Polterguest", "Isaac's Wedding", "The Bachelorette Party" & "St Hetty's Day"
2024–current	*High Potential*	Lev 'Oz' Ozdil[7]	Main role

Theatre

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2007	*Angels with Dirty Faces*		Fairfax Studio, Melbourne with 9Minds

[8]

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2016	*Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare*	PO1 Dan "Wolf" Lyall	Campaign Mission: "Rising Threat"
	Battlefield 1	Matteo Cocchiola	Model

Awards and nominations

Year	Work	Award	Category	Result
2010	*Tomorrow When the War Began*	Inside Film Awards	Best Actor	Nominated[9]

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External links

- Deniz Akdeniz (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2727714/) at IMDb

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